

again led us off the trail. He told us to rest in a clearing while he explored around for more *Nepenthes*. Soon he called us to join him, and we found him in a group of saplings with three very large *N. lowii* vines winding through the branches. These were conservatory specimens if I ever saw any. Each vine was at least 5 m long, and there were pitchers in all stages of development hanging down from the leaf tendrils. Also not far away, in another tall bush, was a *N. tentaculata* with its tendrils coiled around the twigs and forming a cluster of pitchers.

By now the time was nearing 3 p.m., and we had another 2 km of descent to cover before reaching the gate. I was very tired, and the rest of that hike was very gruelling for me. Finally we arrived at the gate, boarded the jalopy, and headed back to the old Administration Building where my basement room beckoned to me. We arrived there at around 5 p.m. as dusk swallowed the mountain. My friend and I consumed a hearty dinner, and I popped an ibuprofen tablet in anticipation of muscle soreness. We were to meet our guide at 8:30 the next morning.

(continued next issue)

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## **Focussing on International CP Conservation and Research: The Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group**

by

Madeleine Groves and Rosemary Simpson

What is the Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group (CPSG) you may well ask and is there a need for yet another carnivorous plant organization?

To answer this question we have to look to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) which is based in Switzerland. Founded in 1948, this is an umbrella organization for the world's conservation agencies, encompassing both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Within IUCN there are a number of Commissions, one of which is the Species Survival Commission (SSC) which is dedicated to conserving species and biological diversity through, amongst other methods, the establishment of "Specialist Groups". The members of these groups help co-ordinate the efforts of numerous agencies and organisations around the world who are dedicated to the conservation and research of a particular plants (e.g. carnivorous plants, cacti, palms, orchids) or animals (e.g. crocodiles, microbats, elephants, otters).

The Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group was established in 1987 by Professor G. Ll. Lucas, (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and was comprised of six members with Dr Martin Cheek (RBG, Kew) acting as Chair until 1994 when he handed over to Bertrand von Arx (Conservation Officer at the Geneva Botanic Garden and Swiss CITES Management Authority). Today the CPSG has 32 members and an extensive list of contacts. Unfortunately it is necessary to restrict the membership to this small number to ensure swift communication but individuals have been chosen to ensure maximum coverage amongst the carnivorous plant community. For example Rick Walker, President of the ICPS is a member of CPSG and through him updates on CPSG's activities can be distributed through CPN and the CP Newsgroup on the Internet.

This brings us to the second question - do we really need another carnivorous plant organisation now? Well, there is an obvious need to improve and co-ordinate

the cp network worldwide as cp populations and their associated habitats continue to be lost. Illegal trade continues and co-operation between conservation agencies and local communities is not always at its best. The CPSG has been established to bring together all these groups and individuals with specialist knowledge in areas such as taxonomy, trade, ecology and propagation together with co-ordinating action to develop conservation and research projects for this group of plants.

The first step of the CPSG is to produce an Action Plan for Carnivorous Plants (see draft below). This will not be another cp coffee table edition or definitive work but rather a summary of the situation for carnivorous plant families worldwide. The Action Plan will focus on presenting recommendations to improve the conservation of these populations and habitats in the future, and, pinpoint new and existing projects. More in-depth supplements to the Action Plan on trade, taxonomy, etc. of these families will be produced in the future. Work on the Action Plan will commence in August 1995. If you are interested in receiving further details please contact the CPSG Secretariat at Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Cambridge\*. Keep a look out on the Carnivorous Plant (CP) Database run by Rick Walker on the Internet for requests for information and updates on the Plan's progress.

Another important aspect of CPSG and the Action Plan is to raise funds or institutional/corporate support for and involvement in carnivorous plant projects, an example that should be followed by other cp organisations worldwide. The animal activists have honed their fund-raising skills over the years leaving behind the plant groups. Action for cp conservation needs financial support and a lot of effort and this action is needed now to ensure the long-term survival of cp populations and habitats.

The CPSG also has a newsletter "Carnivorous Plant SG News" produced by Rosemary Simpson\*\* (RBG, Kew). This is circulated to members and contacts. We welcome your support for CPSG and communications are always welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact the CPSG Secretariat if you require further information, have any project suggestions or information for the Action Plan.

### **Draft Contents of CP Action Plan**

The emphasis of this Plan is to stimulate the conservation of carnivorous plants. Thus each section will concentrate on making recommendations and highlighting action points necessary to achieve this goal.

1. Preface - a brief outline on the development and structure of the CPSG and the Action Plan, and the roles they will play in future conservation of carnivorous plants.
2. Introduction - a brief introduction to carnivorous plants
3. Taxonomic groups - a brief overview of the following carnivorous plant families will be given:

Family	Genera
Bromeliaceae	Brocchinia, etc.

Byblidaceae	Byblis
Cephalotaceae	Cephalotus
Dioncophyllaceae	Triphyophyllum
Droseraceae	Aldrovanda, Dionaea, Drosera, Drosophyllum
Lentibulariaceae	Genlisea, Pinguicula, Utricularia
Nepenthaceae	Nepenthes
Sarraceniaceae	Darlingtonia, Heliamphora, Sarracenia

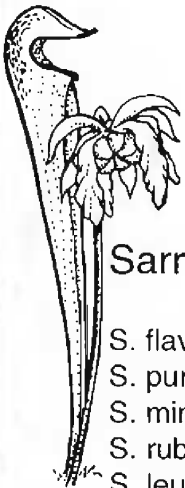
4. Legislation (domestic/international) - each section will cover existing legislation, identify gaps/loopholes.
  - 4.1 Domestic legislation (with subsections by region)
  - 4.2 International legislation
5. Threats - in general
6. Trade (domestic/international) - each section will cover trade practices/trends of past, present and future, identification of the major species in trade and threats of unsustainable trade on populations and habitats
  - 6.1 Domestic trade (with subsections by region)
  - 6.2 International trade
7. Conservation
  - 7.1 In-situ conservation - conservation projects.
  - 7.2 Ex-situ conservation - conservation projects.
8. Propagation - rather than describing in detail every propagation technique available, this chapter will link up with the trade and legislation chapters and concentrate on identifying major propagation projects and their association with conservation.
  - 8.1 Ex-situ propagation projects
  - 8.2 In-situ propagation projects
  - 8.3 Nurseries
  - 8.4 Techniques bibliography
9. Plant/Animal associations
  - 9.1 Major studies - past, present, future.
  - 9.2 Threats
10. Regional Sections - a brief overview of important carnivorous plant regions. These will prove useful when fund-raising within these regions.
11. Education - this section will highlight education projects concerned with carnivorous plants.
12. Proposals for new projects
13. Conclusion
  - 13.1 Summary of major action points
  - 13.2 Code of conduct
14. Bibliography
15. Appendices
  - 15.1 Update on carnivorous plant societies
  - 15.2 Funding
    - 15.2.1 Funding for the CPSG
    - 15.2.2 Action Plan budget
    - 15.2.3 Fund-raising - invitation to all members and contacts to contribute to fund-raising
  - 15.3 CPSG Members and contacts list
  - 15.4 Meetings - regional and international

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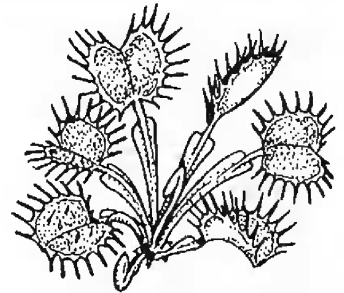
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